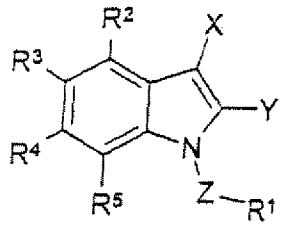
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented): A compound of formula I,



I

wherein X represents an an optionally substituted amide, amine or sulfonamide group, which latter three groups are connected to the indole ring through their nitrogen atom;

Y represents a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a carboxylic acid amide, a hydroxamic acid, a hydroxamic acid ester or hydroxymethyl;

Z comprises a C_{1-8} alkylene or a C_{2-8} heteroalkylene chain;

R^1 represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group;

one of the groups R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group and the other groups R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, G^1, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from A), C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl. C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl (which latter five groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^1 and/or Q^1); and/or

b) any two other groups which are adjacent to each other are optionally linked to form, along with two atoms of the essential benzene ring in the compound of formula I, a 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

A represents:

I) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from B;

II) å C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^1 and/or Q^1; or

III) a G^1 group; or

IV) two adjacent A substituents may be linked together to form, along with the essential atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group to which the two A substituents are attached, a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

G^1 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^1-R^{10}$;

wherein A^1 represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(Q^2)A^2-$, $-S(O)_nA^3-$, $-N(R^{11})A^4-$, $-OA^5-$ and –S-, in which:

A^2 represents A^6 or –S-;

A^3 represents A^6;

A^4 represents A^7, $-C(Q^2)N(A^{11})C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)N(A^{11})C(Q^2)O-$, $C(Q^2)N(A^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(Q^2)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$ or -S(O)nO-;

A^5 represents A^7 or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^6 represents a single bond, $-N(R^{11})-$ or O-;

A^7 represents a single bond, $-C(Q^2)-$, $-C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)O-$, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})$;

Q^1 and Q^2 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{10}$, $=NN(R^{10})(R^{11})$, $=NOR^{10}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{10})(R^{11})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

R^6 and R^7 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above:

I) hydrogen;

II) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from B; or

III) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3; or

A^6 and R^7 may be linked together to form along with the N atom and -E- group to which A^6 and A^7 are respectively attached, a 5- to a-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3;

B represents:

I) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or wherein any two adjacent atoms of the aryl or

heteroaryl group may be linked together to form a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

II) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substiuents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3; or

III) a G^2 group; or

IV) two adjacent B substituents may be linked together to form, along with the essential atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group to which the two B substituents are attached, a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

G^2 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^8-R^{12}$;

wherein A^8 represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(Q^4)A^9-$, $-S(O)_nA^{10}-$, $-N(R^{13})A^{11}-$, $-OA^{12}-$ and –S-, in which:

A^9 represents A^{13} or –S-;

A^{10} represents A^{13};

A^{11} represents A^{14}, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})C(Q^4)O-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(Q^4)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{12} represents A^{14} or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{13} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{13})-$ or -O-;

A^{14} represents a single bond, $-C(Q^4)-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)O-$, $-S(O)_n$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})$;

Q^3 and Q^4 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{12}$, $=NN(R^{12})(R^{13})$, $=NOR^{12}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{12})(R^{13})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{12})(R^{13})$;

R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from:

i) hydrogen;

ii) an aryl or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or wherein any two adjacent atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group may be linked together to form a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^{14}$, $-OR^{14}$ and =O; or

iii) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or W^1; or

any pair of R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} may, ~~for example~~ when present on the same or on adjacent atoms, be linked together to form with those, or other relevant, atoms, a further 5- to 8-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or W^1;

G^3 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{15}-R^{15}$;

wherein A^{15} represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(W^2)A^{16}-$, $-S(O)_nA^{17}-$, $-N(R^{16})A^{18}-$, $-OA^{19}-$ and -S-, in which:

A^{16} represents A^{20} or -S-;

A^{17} represents A^{20};

A^{18} represents A^{21}, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})C(W^2)N(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})C(W^2)O-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})S(O)_nN(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})C(W^{2)}N(R^{16})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})C(W^2)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})S(O)_nN(R^{16})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{19} represents A^{21} or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{20} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{16})-$ or -O-;

A^{21} represents a single bond, $-C(W^2)-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)O-$, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})$;

W^1 and W^2 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{15}$, $=NN(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $=NOR^{15}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{15})(R^{16})$;

R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} are independently selected from:

i) hydrogen;

ii) an aryl or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4, methylenedioxy, difluoromethylenedioxy and/or dimethylmethylenedioxy; or

iii) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4 and/or J; or

any pair of R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} may, for example when present on the same or on

adjacent atoms, be linked together to form with those, or other relevant, atoms, a further 5- to 7-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4 and J;

G^4 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{22}-R^{17}$;

wherein A^{22} represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(O)A^{23}-$, $-S(O)_nA^{24}-$, $-N(R^{18})A^{25}-$, $-OA^{26}-$ and –S-, in which:

A^{23} represents A^{27} or –S-;

A^{24} represents A^{27};

A^{25} represents A^{28}, $-C(O)N(R^{18})C(O)N(R^{18})-$, $-C(O)N(R^{18})C(O)O-$, $-C(O)N(R^{18})S(O)_nN(R^{18})-$, $-C(O)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})C(O)N(R^{18})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})C(O)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})S(O)_nN(R^{18})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{26} represents A28 or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{27} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{18})-$ or -O-;

A^{28} represents a single bond, -C(O)-, $-C(O)N(R^{18})-$, -C(O)O-, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})$;

J represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{17}$, $=NN(R^{17})(R^{18})$, $=NOR^{17}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{17})(R^{18})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{17})(R^{18})$;

R^{17} and R^{18} are independently selected from hydrogen and C'-6 alkyl, which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-NH_2$, -N(H)Me, -N(H)Et, -N(H)i-Pr, $-NMe_2$, -N(Me)Et, -N(Me)*i*-.Pr, $-NEt_2$, -OH, -OMe, -OEt, -O*i*-, Pr and =O; and

n represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, 1 or 2,

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

2. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein;

X represents:

$-N(R^6)-E-R^7$;

E represents a single bond, $-CG(O)-$ or $-S(O)_n-$;

Y represents $-CH_2OH$, $-C(O)N(H)R^8$, $-C(O)N(H)OR^8$ or $-C(O)OR^8$;

Z represents a C_{1-8} alkylene or a C_{2-8} heteroalkylene chain, both of which:

(i) optionally contain one or more unsaturations;

(ii) are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo,$-R^8$, $-N(R^8)(R^9)$, $-OR^8$ and =O; and/or

(iii) may form part of an additional 3- to a-membered ring formed between any one or more members of the C1-S alkylene or C2-S heteroalkylene chain, which ring optionally contains 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations and which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-N(R^8)(R^9)$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

R^1 represents an aryl or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from A;

one of the groups R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 represents an aryl group or a heteroaryl group (both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from A) and:

a) the other groups are independently selected from hydrogen, G^1, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from A), C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl. C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl (which latter five groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^1 and/or Q^1); and/or

b) any two other groups which are adjacent to each other are optionally linked to form, along with two atoms of the essential benzene ring in the compound of formula I, a 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

A represents:

I) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from B;

II) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^1 and/or Q^1; or

III) a G^1 group; or

IV) two adjacent A substituents may be linked together to form, along with the essential atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group to which the two A substituents are attached, a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

G^1 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-N0_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^1-R^{10}$;

wherein A^1 represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(Q^2)A^2-$, $-S(O)_nA^3-$, $-N(R^{11})A^4-$, $-OA^5-$ and –S-, in which:

A^2 represents A^6 or –S-;

A^3 represents A^6;

A^4 represents A^7, $-C(Q^2)N(A^{11})C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)N(A^{11})C(Q^2)O-$, $C(Q^2)N(A^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(Q^2)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$ or -S(O)nO-;

A^5 represents A^7 or $–S(O)_nO-$;

A^6 represents a single bond, $-N(R^{11})-$ or O-;

A^7 represents a single bond, $-C(Q^2)-$, $-C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)O-$, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})$;

Q^1 and Q^2 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{10}$, $=NN(R^{10})(R^{11})$, $=NOR^{10}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{10})(R^{11})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

R^6 and R^7 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above:

I) hydrogen;

II) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from B; or

III) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3; or

A^6 and R^7 may be linked together to form along with the N atom and -E- group to which A^6 and A^7 are respectively attached, a 5- to a-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3;

B represents:

I) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or wherein any two adjacent atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group may be linked together to form a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

II) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substiuents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3; or

III) a G^2 group; or

IV) two adjacent B substituents may be linked together to form, along with the essential atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group to which the two B substituents are attached, a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

G^2 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^8-R^{12}$;

wherein A^8 represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(Q^4)A^9-$, $-S(O)_nA^{10}-$, $-N(R^{13})A^{11}-$, $-OA^{12}-$ and –S-, in which:

A^9 represents A^{13} or –S-;

A^{10} represents A^{13};

A^{11} represents A^{14}, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})C(Q^4)O-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(Q^4)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{12} represents A^{14} or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{13} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{13})-$ or -O-;

A^{14} represents a single bond, $-C(Q^4)-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)O-$, $-S(O)_n$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})$;

Q^3 and Q^4 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{12}$, $=NN(R^{12})(R^{13})$, $=NOR^{12}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{12})(R^{13})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{12})(R^{13})$;

R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from:

i) hydrogen;

ii) an aryl or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or wherein any two adjacent atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group may be linked together to form a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally

containing 1 or more heteroatoms, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^{14}$, $-OR^{14}$ and =O; or

iii) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or W^1; or

any pair of R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} may, ~~for example~~ when present on the same or on adjacent atoms, be linked together to form with those, or other relevant, atoms, a further 5- to 8-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or W^1;

G^3 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{15}-R^{15}$;

wherein A^{15} represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(W^2)A^{16}-$, $-S(O)_nA^{17}-$, $-N(R^{16})A^{18}-$, $-OA^{19}-$ and -S-, in which:

A^{16} represents A^{20} or -S-;

A^{17} represents A^{20};

A^{18} represents A^{21}, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})C(W^2)N(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})C(W^2)O-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})S(O)_nN(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})C(W^{2)}N(R^{16})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})C(W^2)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})S(O)_nN(R^{16})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{19} represents A^{21} or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{20} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{16})-$ or -O-;

A^{21} represents a single bond, $-C(W^2)-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)O-$, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})$;

W^1 and W^2 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{15}$, $=NN(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $=NOR^{15}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{15})(R^{16})$;

R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} are independently selected from:

i) hydrogen;

ii) an aryl or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4, methylenedioxy, difluoromethylenedioxy and/or dimethylmethylenedioxy; or

iii) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4 and/or J; or

any pair of R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} may, for example when present on the same or on

adjacent atoms, be linked together to form with those, or other relevant, atoms, a further 5- to 7-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4 and J;

G^4 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{22}-R^{17}$;

wherein A^{22} represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(O)A^{23}-$, $-S(O)_nA^{24}-$, $-N(R^{18})A^{25}-$, $-OA^{26}-$ and –S-, in which:

A^{23} represents A^{27} or –S-;

A^{24} represents A^{27};

A^{25} represents A^{28}, $-C(O)N(R^{18})C(O)N(R^{18})-$, $-C(O)N(R^{18})C(O)O-$, $-C(O)N(R^{18})S(O)_nN(R^{18})-$, $-C(O)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})C(O)N(R^{18})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})C(O)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})S(O)_nN(R^{18})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{26} represents A28 or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{27} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{18})-$ or -O-;

A^{28} represents a single bond, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(R^{18})-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})$;

J represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{17}$, $=NN(R^{17})(R^{18})$, $=NOR^{17}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{17})(R^{18})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{17})(R^{18})$;

R^{17} and R^{18} are independently selected from hydrogen and C'-6 alkyl, which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-NH_2$, -N(H)Me, -N(H)Et, -N(H)i-Pr, $-NMe_2$, -N(Me)Et, -N(Me)*i*-.Pr, $-NEt_2$, -OH, -OMe, -OEt, -O*i*-, Pr and =O; and

n represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, 1 or 2,

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

3. (original): A compound as claimed in Claim 2, wherein n represents 2.

4. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in Claim 2 , wherein A represents G^1 or any two adjacent A substituents may be linked by a methylenedioxy group.

5. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein G^1 represents halo, cyano, $-NO_2$ or $-A^1-R^{10}$.

6. (previously presented): A compound as clamed in claim 2, wherein A^2 represents A^6.

7. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein A^3 and A^5 independently represent a single bond.

8. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein A^4 represents a single bond, $-C(Q^2)-$ or $-S(O)_2-$.

9. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein Q^2 represents =O.

10. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein B represents G^2.

11. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein G^2 represents halo, cyano, $-NO_2-$ or $-A^8-R^{12}$.

12. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein A^8 represents a single bond, $-N(R^{13})A^{11}-$ or $-OA^{12}-$.

13. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein A^{11} and A^{12} independently represent a single bond.

14. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Z represents C_{1-6} alkylene, in which one of the carbon atoms in the chain may be replaced with oxygen.

15. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Y represents –CH_2OH, -C(O)NHR^8 or –C(O)OR^8.

16. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 represents optionally substituted fluorenyl, phenyl or pyridyl.

17. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein (when X represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group) X represents an optionally substituted phenyl, thienyl, pyridyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl or quinolinyl group.

18. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 1, (when they represent an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group) R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^5 represent optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl or naphthyl.

19. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the other substituents on the benzene ring of the indole represent hydrogen or G^1.

20. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^6 represents hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl group (which latter group is optionally substituted by G^2).

21. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^7 represents phenyl or pyridyl (which groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from B), or C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl or C_{5-10} cycloalkyl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2).

22. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^6 and R^7 are linked to form a 5- or 6-membered ring optionally substituted by =O.

23. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in Claim 2, wherein R^8 and R^{13} independently represent C_{1-3} alkyl or hydrogen.

24. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^{10} represents hydrogen, phenyl, tetrazolyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl or C_{5-6} cycloalkyl, which latter five groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3.

25. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^{12} represents hydrogen, phenyl, pyrrolyl, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{5-10} cycloalkyl, which latter four groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3.

26. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^{11} represents hydrogen or C_{2-4} alkenyl.

27. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein G^3 represents halo, $-R^{15}$ or $-OR^{15}$.

28. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^{15} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl or phenyl.

29. (previously presented): A compound as claimed in claim 16, wherein the optional substituents are selected from halo, $-NO_2$, cyano, methylenedioxy, C_{1-6} alkyl (which alkyl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from a halo group, a phenyl groups and OR^{19}), C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl (which cycloalkyl group is optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl), phenyl (which group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo and OR^{19}), a heteroaryl group selected from tetrazolyl and pyrrolyl (which groups are optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups), methylthio, methylsulfonyl, methylsulfonyl, =O, $-OR^{19}$, $-N(R^{19})R^{20}$, $-C(O)OR^{19}$, $-C(O)R^{19}$, $-C(O)N(R^{19})R^{20}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{19})r^{20}$ and/or $-N(R^{19})S(O)_2R^{21}$, wherein R^{19} and R^{20} independently represent hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4} alkenyl, C_{1-6} alkyl (which alkyl group is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro atoms) or a phenyl group and R^{21} represents phenyl or C_{1-6} alkyl (which alkyl group is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro atoms).

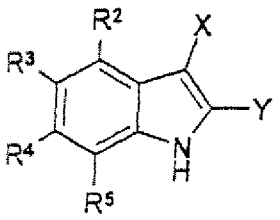
30. (previously presented): A compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, for use as a phramaceutical.

31. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

32. – 38. (canceled)

39. (original): A process for the preparation of a compound as defined in Claim 2, which comprises:

(i) reaction of a compound of formula II,



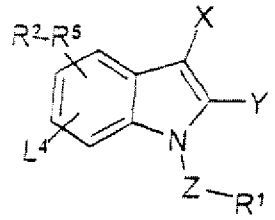
II

wherein X Y, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as defined in Claim 2, with a compound of formula III,

R^1ZL^1 III

wherein L^1 represents a suitable leaving group and R^1 and Z are as defined in Claim 2;

(ii) reaction of a compound of formula IV,



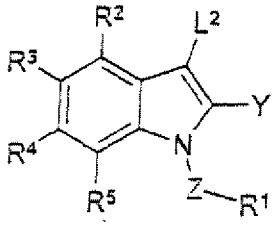
IV

wherein L^4 represents L^2 or L^3, in which L^2 and L^3 represent appropriate leaving groups and L^4 is attached to one or more of the carbon atoms of the benzenoid ring of the indole, and the remaining positions of the benzenoid ring are substituted with 1 to 3 (depending on the number of L^4 substituents) substituents R^2 to R^5 as appropriate, and Z. X, Y, R^1, R^2, R^3; R^4 and R^5 are as defined in Claim 2, with a compound of formula V,

$$R^{22}L^5 \qquad V$$

wherein R^{22} represents R^2, R^3, R^4 or R^5 (as appropriate), and L^5 represents L^2 (when L^4 is L^3) or L^3 (when L^4 is L^2) as defined above;

(iii) for compounds of formula I in which X represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group, reaction of a compound of formula VI,



VI

wherein L^2 is as defined above and Z, Y, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as defined in Claim 2, with a compound of formula VII,

$$X^aL^3 \qquad VII$$

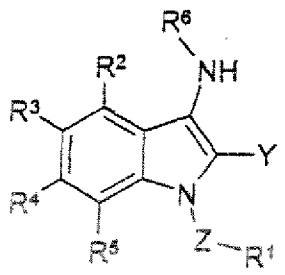
wherein L^3 is as defined above and X^a represents an aryl or heteroaryl group, optionally substituted as defined in Claim 2;

(iv) for compounds of formula I in which X represents $-N(R^6)-E-R^7$, reaction of a compound of formula VI as defined above, with a compound of formula VIII,

$$HN(R^6)-E-R^7 \qquad VIII$$

wherein E, R^6 and R^7 are as defined in Claim 2;

(v) for compounds of formula I in which X represents $-N(R^6)-E-R^7$, reaction of a compound of formula IX,



IX

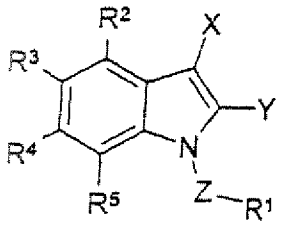
wherein Z, Y, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 are as defined in Claim 2, with a compound of formula X,

$$R^7\text{-}E\text{-}L \qquad X$$

wherein L^1 is as defined above and E and R+ are as defined in Claim 2;

(vi) for compounds of formula I in which E represents a single bond and R^7 is a $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl group, $C_{3\text{-}6}$ alkenyl or a $C_{3\text{-}6}$ alkynyl group, reduction of a compound of formula I, wherein X represents -C(O)- and R^7 represents H, a $C_{1\text{-}5}$, alkyl group, a $C_{2\text{-}5}$ alkenyl or a $C_{2\text{-}5}$ alkynyl group.

40. (previously presented): A compound of formula I,



I

wherein X represents an optionally substituted amide, amine or sulfonamide group, wherein said groups are connected to the indole ring through their nitrogen atom;

Y represents a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a carboxylic acid amide, a hydroxamic acid, a hydroxamic acid ester or hydroxymethyl;

Z comprises a $C_{1\text{-}8}$ alkylene or a $C_{2\text{-}9}$ heteroalkylene group;

R^1 represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group;

one of the groups R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group and the other groups R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, G^1, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from A), $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, $C_{3\text{-}10}$ cycloalkyl, $C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl. $C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkynyl or $C_{3\text{-}8}$ heterocycloalkyl (which latter five groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^1 and/or Q^1); and/or

b) any two other groups which are adjacent to each other are optionally linked to form, along with two atoms of the essential benzene ring in the compound of formula I, a 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

A represents:

I) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from B;

II) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^1 and/or Q^1; or

III) a G^1 group; or

IV) two adjacent A substituents may be linked together to form, along with the essential atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group to which the two A substituents are attached, a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

G^1 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^1-R^{10}$;

wherein A^1 represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(Q^2)A^2-$, $-S(O)_nA^3-$, $-N(R^{11})A^4-$, $-OA^5-$ and –S-, in which:

A^2 represents A^6 or –S-;

A^3 represents A^6;

A^4 represents A^7, $-C(Q^2)N(A^{11})C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)N(A^{11})C(Q^2)O-$, $C(Q^2)N(A^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(Q^2)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{'11})-$ or $-S(O)nO-$;

A^5 represents A^7 or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^6 represents a single bond, $-N(R^{11})-$ or O-;

A^7 represents a single bond, $-C(Q^2)-$, $-C(Q^2)N(R^{11})-$, $-C(Q^2)O-$, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})$;

Q^1 and Q^2 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{10}$, $=NN(R^{10})(R^{11})$, $=NOR^{10}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{10})(R^{11})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

R^6 and R^7 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above:

I) hydrogen;

II) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from B; or

III) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3; or

A^6 and R^7 may be linked together to form along with the N atom and -E- group to which A^6 and A^7 are respectively attached, a 5- to a-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3;

B represents:

I) an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^2 and/or wherein any two adjacent atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group may be linked together to form a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

II) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substiuents selected from G^2 and/or Q^3; or

III) a G^2 group; or

IV) two adjacent B substituents may be linked together to form, along with the essential atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group to which the two B substituents are attached, a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^8$, $-OR^8$ and =O;

G^2 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^8-R^{12}$;

wherein A^8 represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(Q^4)A^9-$, $-S(O)_nA^{10}-$, $-N(R^{13})A^{11}-$, $-OA^{12}-$ and –S-, in which:

A^9 represents A^{13} or –S-;

A^{10} represents A^{13};

A^{11} represents A^{14}, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})C(Q^4)O-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(Q^4)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{12} represents A^{14} or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{13} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{13})-$ or -O-;

A^{14} represents a single bond, $-C(Q^4)-$, $-C(Q^4)N(R^{13})-$, $-C(Q^4)O-$, $-S(O)_n$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})$;

Q^3 and Q^4 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{12}$, $=NN(R^{12})(R^{13})$, $=NOR^{12}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{12})(R^{13})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{12})(R^{13})$;

R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from:

i) hydrogen;

ii) an aryl or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or wherein any two adjacent atoms of the aryl or heteroaryl group may be linked together to form a further 5- to 6-membered ring, optionally containing 1 or more heteroatoms, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-R^{14}$, $-OR^{14}$ and =O; or

iii) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or W^1; or

any pair of R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} may, ~~for example~~ when present on the same or on adjacent atoms, be linked together to form with those, or other relevant, atoms, a further 5- to 8-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^3 and/or W^1;

G^3 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{15}-R^{15}$;

wherein A^{15} represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(W^2)A^{16}-$, $-S(O)_nA^{17}-$, $-N(R^{16})A^{18}-$, $-OA^{19}-$ and -S-, in which:

A^{16} represents A^{20} or -S-;

A^{17} represents A^{20};

A^{18} represents A^{21}, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})C(W^2)N(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})C(W^2)O-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})S(O)_nN(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})C(W^{2)}N(R^{16})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})C(W^2)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})S(O)_nN(R^{16})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{19} represents A^{21} or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{20} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{16})-$ or -O-;

A^{21} represents a single bond, $-C(W^2)-$, $-C(W^2)N(R^{16})-$, $-C(W^2)O-$, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{16})$;

W^1 and W^2 independently represent, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{15}$, $=NN(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $=NOR^{15}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{15})(R^{16})$;

R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} are independently selected from:

i) hydrogen;

ii) an aryl or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4, methylenedioxy, difluoromethylenedioxy and/or dimethylmethylenedioxy; or

iii) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl or C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl group, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4 and/or J; or

any pair of R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} may, for example when present on the same or on adjacent atoms, be linked together to form with those, or other relevant, atoms, a further 5- to 7-membered ring, optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 unsaturations, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from G^4 and J;

G^4 represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{22}-R^{17}$;

wherein A^{22} represents a single bond or a spacer group selected from $-C(O)A^{23}-$, $-S(O)_nA^{24}-$, $-N(R^{18})A^{25}-$, $-OA^{26}-$ and –S-, in which:

A^{23} represents A^{27} or –S-;

A^{24} represents A^{27};

A^{25} represents A^{28}, $-C(O)N(R^{18})C(O)N(R^{18})-$, $-C(O)N(R^{18})C(O)O-$, $-C(O)N(R^{18})S(O)_nN(R^{18})-$, $-C(O)S-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})C(O)N(R^{18})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})C(O)O-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})S(O)_nN(R^{18})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{26} represents A28 or $-S(O)_nO-$;

A^{27} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{18})-$ or -O-;

A^{28} represents a single bond, -C(O)-, $-C(O)N(R^{18})-$, -C(O)O-, $-S(O)_n-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{18})$;

J represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, =O, =S, $=NR^{17}$, $=NN(R^{17})(R^{18})$, $=NOR^{17}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{17})(R^{18})$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ or $=C(R^{17})(R^{18})$;

R^{17} and R^{18} are independently selected from hydrogen and C'-6 alkyl, which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-NH_2$, -N(H)Me, -N(H)Et, -N(H)i-Pr, $-NMe_2$, -N(Me)Et, -N(Me)*i*-.Pr, $-NEt_2$, -OH, -OMe, -OEt, -O*i*-, Pr and =O; and

n represents, on each occasion when mentioned above, 1 or 2,

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

41. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 40 wherein

X is a substituted benzoylamino group;

Y is a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid ester group;

Z represents an optionally substituted C_{1-8} alkylene or a C_{2-9} heteroalkylene group;

R^1 is an optionally substituted aryl group;

one of R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 is optionally substituted aryl and the others are hydrogen.

42. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 41 which is 6-(4-butylphenyl)-1-(3-chlorobenzyl)-3-(4-isopropoxybenzoylamino)-indole-2-carboxylic acid.